

distinct from the congressional office records of the Chair, shall be the property of the House, and all Members of the House shall have access thereto as provided in clause 2(e)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House.

(4) The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with rule VII of the rules of the House. The Chair shall notify the ranking minority member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of the rule, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on written request of any member of the Committee.

Committee publications on the internet

(c) To the maximum extent feasible, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form.

Calendars

(d)(1) The Committee shall maintain a Committee Calendar, which shall include all bills, resolutions, and other matters referred to or reported by the Committee and all bills, resolutions, and other matters reported by any other committee on which a rule has been granted or formally requested, and such other matters as the Chair shall direct. The Calendar shall be published periodically, but in no case less often than once in each session of Congress.

(2) The staff of the Committee shall furnish each member of the Committee with a list of all bills or resolutions (A) reported from the Committee but not yet considered by the House, and (B) on which a rule has been formally requested but not yet granted. The list shall be updated each week when the House is in session.

(3) For purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2), a rule is considered as formally requested when the Chairman of a committee which has reported a bill or resolution (or a member of such committee authorized to act on the Chairman's behalf):

(A) has requested, in writing to the Chair, that a hearing be scheduled on a rule for the consideration of the bill or resolution, and

(B) has supplied the Committee with an adequate number of copies of the bill or resolution, as reported, together with the final printed committee report thereon.

Other procedures

(e) The Chair may establish such other Committee procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out these rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the Committee and its subcommittees in a manner consistent with these rules.

RULE 9—AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE RULES

The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended or repealed, in the same manner and method as prescribed for the adoption of committee rules in clause 2 of rule XI of the Rules of the House, but only if written notice of the proposed change has been provided to each such Member at least 48 hours before the time of the meeting at which the vote on the change occurs. Any such change in the rules of the Committee shall be published in the Congressional Record within 30 calendar days after their approval.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

NATION'S LOOMING FINANCIAL CRISIS NEEDS A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, last spring I took a trip to Antietam National Battlefield. As I walked along Bloody Lane, the site of one of the most vicious battles of the Civil War, I was struck by how many individuals made the ultimate sacrifice.

September 18, 1862, was the bloodiest day in American history. There were more than 23,000 casualties, nine times as many Americans killed or wounded in World War II's D-day on June 6, 1944. More soldiers were killed and wounded at the Battle of Antietam than the deaths of all Americans in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War and the Spanish-American war combined.

I also visited the site of the George Washington's crossing of the Delaware in anticipation of the Battle of Trenton. Washington was down to only 3,000 soldiers and the war was almost lost. Yet with great courage and sacrifice, Washington and his forces were successful in changing the direction of the American Revolution.

I also think of the tremendous sacrifice being made by thousands of men and women serving today not only in Iraq and Afghanistan but around the globe. Their families at home are also making great sacrifices.

After those visits and the lessons in history they brought, I began reading about the looming financial crisis on the Nation's horizon with the impending retirement of the baby boom generation. That information was chilling.

In less than a year, the baby boom generation will begin trickling into retirement. A few years later, that trickle will become a flood. And within 5 more years, it will become a tsunami that will begin to wreak havoc on the Social Security and Medicare systems.

Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security consume 40 percent of the budget in 2006, but will consume 51 percent in 2016, which is just the tip of the Democratic iceberg.

There is near unanimous consent by all who have looked at this issue. Social Security and Medicare are amassing huge deficits, and we are ill prepared for the coming flood of new baby boom retirees. When our retirement security programs like Social Security and Medicare were established, the ratio of workers supporting each retiree was more than 10 times the number supporting retirees today. In 1945, there were 42 workers for each retiree. Last year, the ratio dropped to three workers for each retiree and is expected to drop to just two workers for each retiree in 2030.

In reading about the coming financial emergency, my mind kept going back to Antietam and Washington's crossing and all the substantive exam-

ples of sacrifice for country by Americans. I asked myself, what kind of financial security as a Nation are we passing on to those who are coming after us?

While there never is a convenient time to make hard decisions, the longer we wait, the more dramatic the remedy will be that is required.

According to the Government Accountability Office, balancing the budget in 2040 necessitates one of two alternatives: Cutting total Federal spending by 60 percent, and this place will never do that; or raising Federal taxes by two-and-a-half times today's level. Either of these options would devastate our economy.

But if we can summon the resolve to begin these difficult conversations now, and make hard choices on the front end, we can change the current course. Abraham Lincoln, one of our greatest Presidents, said "you cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today," yet that is precisely what we are doing in avoiding our responsibility to future generations by passing on a broken system in the form of unfunded Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

That is why next week Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH in the Senate and I in the House will join to introduce identical legislation to establish a national commission that will put everything, everything, entitlement benefits and all other Federal programs, as well as our tax policies, on the table and to require, require Congress to vote up or down on its recommendations in their entirety, similar to the base realignment and base closure commission, BRAC.

This commission would be called the SAFE Commission, to secure America's future economy. We first introduced the SAFE Commission last summer. Since that time, the proposal has received strong support from across the political spectrum, including the Heritage Foundation, the Concord Coalition, former Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, and former Congressional Budget Office directors. It is being endorsed by major newspapers across the country, including the Dallas Morning News, the Orlando Sentinel and syndicated columnist David Broder.

It is in the hope of building a consensus on this very difficult issue that we will again offer this legislation. One of the most critical responsibilities of the Commission will be explaining the crisis we face and listening to the American people about how to get the country back on sound financial footing.

It will also develop a strategic plan for the future. It will look beyond the beltway for solutions, holding at least 12 hearings, one in each Federal Reserve district, over the span of 12 months in order to hear directly from the American people.

After its 12-month listening tour, the commission will present to Congress a report describing the long-term fiscal problems, public